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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/731,696

12/09/2003

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OIC0115US

3270

60975 7590 01/06/2009
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THUY-VI THI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3689

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/06/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/731,696	Applicant(s) LLOYD ET AL.	
	Examiner THUY VI NGUYEN	Art Unit 3689	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on 09/29/08, wherein:
Claims 1-38 are currently pending;
Claims 1, 12, 16, 18, 28, 32-38 have been amended;

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 16-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 16- 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are directed to a system containing a data store and components (software components) that do not meet any of the statutory items such as process (method), machine (apparatus), manufacture (product) or composition. The system claims appear to be an apparatus claim, however, there are no structures or functional elements which are required in an apparatus claim. The database and two components cited are or appeared to be software modules or software, which are not considered as structures or structural elements.

Claims 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims are directed to computer-readable

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storage medium which can be a signal as defined in the specification {par. 0028}.

When nonfunctional descriptive material is recorded on some computer readable storage medium, in a computer or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, it is not statutory since no requisite functionality is present to satisfy the practical application requirement.

Claim 38 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C 101 because "data structure" in the claimed invention is not statutory. The definition of "data structure" is "a physical or logical relationship among data elements, designed to support specific data manipulation functions". The New IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms 308 (5th ed. 1993). Data structure as recites in the claim limitation "*a summary area, a participants area, or a user area*" is not appeared to be data structure as defined above. Therefore, the "data structure" in the claim is not statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Amerasinghe et al (US 2007/0208608).

As for claim 1, Amerasinghe et al disclose a method in a computer system for presenting forecast information, the method comprising:

a) providing forecast snapshots, each forecast snapshot comprising a forecast date, a forecast period, forecast interval and summary forecasts

[...creates forecast data; see par. 0118, figure 22 for forecast date 216; and forecast snapshot data with a forecast period in figures 26- 27, par. 0142; forecast period 448 and summary forecasts 437; formulate the structure of forecast including forecast interval; (par. 0006; par. 0057 and figures 3)],

wherein the forecast interval indicates a frequency at which forecasts are to be generated and saved at forecasts snapshot

[...i.e. the forecast is created using the parameter such as interval, interval period which indicates the frequency at which forecasts are made within a period as show in figures 3-4, 18A; par. 0057(table 1), pars. 0058-0059); forecast data is stored; par. 0006; and figure 7]; **Note:** This is a method claim, and active, positive method step is required. As for the phrase "*.... to be generated and saved as forecast snapshots*", this is not a positively recited method step but, rather as intended use of the previous step/function.

b) receiving from a user a request to display forecast snapshot information for a forecast period

[...see figure 27, par. 0142 for the forecast snapshot data/information, the system will automatically displays or fills in forecast date when receiving the input from user such as a forecast series name; a client requests data; see par. 0120; par. 0123,

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lines 1-4 and par. 0143, lines 14-16; par. 0162, and figures 20-22]; **Note:** This is a method claim, and active, positive method step is required. As for the phrase “to display forecast snapshot for a fore cast period”, this is not a positively recited method step but, rather as intended use of the previous step/function.

c) for each forecast snapshot for the requested forecast period, retrieving forecasts for participants of the forecast

[...forecast data stored in the database are then retrieved corresponding to the user; see par. 0006, lines 8-18; par. 0065, lines 1-11 and figures 6A-6B, figure 27];

d) retrieving current opportunities for the user

[...users enters opportunities information and able to view detail revenue schedule information for the opportunity; see par. 0102, lines 1-5; par. 0104, lines 1-5; par. 0106; 0108 and figures 16-17].

e) generating a display description with a summary area that comprises summary information of the retrieved forecasts snapshots for participants of the forecast, a participants area that comprises information of the retrieved forecasts snapshots of each participant, and a user area that comprises information of the retrieved current opportunities of the user

[...summary view 460; participant area 464 and 462 that includes participant information; the form 462 is also a user area that enable a user to view his or her forecast and others participant; see par. 0139-0142 and figures 24-27].

Note: for convenience, letters (a)-(e) are added to the beginning of each step.

Note: This appears to be a “data processing” method, therefore, the term “a *forecast date, a forecast period, forecast interval and summary forecasts*, in the “forecast snapshot”, have been determined to be non-functional descriptive material (NFDM), thus having no patentable weight and does not need to be taught by the prior art. Nonfunctional descriptive material can not render nonobvious an invention that would have other wise been obvious. In re Gulack, 703 F. 2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 40-4 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (when descriptive material is not functionally related to the substrate, the descriptive material will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. See MPEP 2106.01.

As for claim 2, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the areas includes a date for each forecast snapshot [see par. 0142, lines 7-10 and figure 25].

As for claim 3, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the participants area includes a row for each participant that, when selected, provides more detailed information about each participant [see par. 0141, lines 10-18 and figures 24-25].

As for claim 4, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the summary area includes closed revenue and forecast revenue [...revenue class/closed revenue; see par. 0105, lines 4-5; and figure 16; forecast revenue; see par. 0116, lines 1-3 and figure 19].

As for claim 5, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the summary area includes pipeline revenue [...total revenue for all revenue/pipeline revenue; see figures 26-27].

As for claim 6, Amerasinghe et al disclose 6 wherein the information of the summary area includes expected revenue [see par. 0115, lines 8-9 and figure 25].

As for claim 7, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the participants area includes closed revenue and forecast revenue [...revenue class/closed revenue; see par. 0105, lines 4-5; and figure 16; forecast revenue; see par. 0116, lines 1-3 and figure 19].

As for claim 8, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the participants area includes pipeline revenue [...total revenue for all revenue/pipeline revenue; see figures 26-27].

As for claim 9, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the participants area includes name of the participant [see figures 24-25].

As for claim 10, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the user area includes information for each opportunity of the user [see par. 0141, lines 10-18].

As for claim 11, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information for each opportunity includes opportunity identifier and forecast revenue [see par. 0102, lines 5-10; see par. 0116, lines 1-3 and figure 16 and 19].

As for claim 12, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the summary area comprises a row of information for each forecast snapshot within the forecast period, the participant area comprise a row of information for each participant within each forecast snapshot within the forecast period, and the user area comprises a row for each opportunity of the user [see par. 0139, par. 0141, lines 10-16 and figures 24-25].

As for claim 13, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the summary area includes forecasted quantity of a product [see figure 16 for quantity of a product].

As for claim 14, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the summary area includes closed quantity of a product [see figure 16 for revenue class/closed of a product].

As for claim 15, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the summary area includes pipeline quantity of a product [...total revenue for all revenue/pipeline revenue; see figures 26-27].

As for claim 16, Amerasinghe et al disclose a computer system for presenting forecast information, comprising:

a) a forecast snapshot database with forecast snapshots comprising a forecast date, a forecast period, forecast interval and forecast information

[...creates forecast data, and stored in database; see par. 0118, figures 7, 22 for forecast date 216; and forecast snapshot data with a forecast period in figure 27, par. 0142; forecast period 448 and summary forecasts 437; formulate the structure of forecast including forecast interval; (par. 0006; par. 0057 and figures 3)],

wherein the forecast interval indicates a frequency at which forecasts are to be generated and saved at forecasts snapshot *[...i.e. the forecast is created using the parameter such as interval, interval period which indicates the frequency at which forecasts are made within a period as show in figures 3-4, 18A; par. 0057(table 1), pars. 0058-0059);forecast data is stored; par. 0006; and figure 7];*

b) a component that, for each forecast snapshot for a forecast period, retrieves forecasts for participants of the forecast

[...revenue management software tool enables user to enter and retrieve forecast data; see par. 0006, lines 12-17, par. 0142 and figures 17-27]; and

c) a component that generates a display description with a summary area that comprises summary information of the retrieved forecasts snapshots for participants of the forecast, a participants area that comprises information of the retrieved forecasts snapshots of each participant, and a user area that comprises information of opportunities of a user

[...summary view 460; participant area 464 and 462 that includes participant information; the form 462 is also a user area that enable a user to view his or her forecast and others participant; see par. 0139; 0140; 0141 and figures 24-27].

Note: that it appears that independent claim 16 is an apparatus claim. In examination of the apparatus claim, the claims must be structurally distinguishable from the prior art. While features of an apparatus claim may be recited either structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. See MPEP 2114. *In re Schreiber*, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477-78, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431-32 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Apparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does. *Hewlett-Packard Co. vs. Bausch & Lomb Inc.* (Fed. Circ. 1990). Manner of operating the device or elements of the device, i.e. recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be

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employed/used, does not differentiate apparatus from the prior art apparatus. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (BPAI, 1987).

Also, this is an apparatus claim and intended use limitation for the system/device or apparatus, i.e. “to be generated and saved as forecast snapshot, retrieves forecasts for participants of the forecast” carries no patentable weight.

Furthermore, as for the features that are deal with type of information/data e.g. forecast data, forecast period, forecast interval, forecast information, information of opportunities of a user which are considered as nonfunctional descriptive material and carried no patentable weights. See MPEP 2106.01.

As for claim 17, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the areas includes a date for each forecast snapshot [see par. 0142, lines 7-10 and figure 25].

As for claim 18, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the participants area comprises a row for each participant that, when selected, provides more detailed information about each participant, the more detailed information comprising opportunity information retrieved from a snapshot [see par. 0139, par. 0141, lines 10-18 and figures 24-25].

As for claim 19, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the summary area includes forecast revenue [...forecast revenue; see par. 0116, lines 1-3 and figure 19].

As for claim 20, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the summary area includes closed revenue [...revenue class/closed revenue; see par. 0105, lines 4-5; and figure 16].

As for claim 21, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the summary area includes expected revenue [see par. 0115, lines 8-9 and figure 25].

As for claim 22, Amerasinghe et al disclose including a component that automatically generates forecasts in accordance with a forecast definition [see par. 0108, lines 1-4].

As for claim 23, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the participants area includes forecast revenue [...forecast revenue; see par. 0116, lines 1-3 and figure 19].

As for claim 24, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the participants area includes pipeline revenue [...total revenue for all revenue/pipeline revenue; see figures 26-27].

As for claim 25, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the participants area includes name of the participant [see figures 24-25].

As for claim 26, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the user area includes information for each current opportunity of the user [...users enters opportunities information and able to view detail revenue schedule information for the opportunity; see par. 0102, lines 1-5; par. 0104, lines 1-5; par. 0106; 0108 and figures 16-17].

As for claim 27, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the user area includes information for each opportunity of the user stored in a snapshot [see par. 0016, par. 0068, lines 13-15 and figure 8].

As for claim 28, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the summary area comprises a row of information for each forecast snapshot within the forecast period,

the participant area comprises a row of information for each participant within each forecast snapshot within the forecast period, and the user area comprises a row for each opportunity of the user [see par. 0139, par. 0141, lines 10-18 and figures 24-25].

As for claim 29, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the summary area includes forecasted quantity of a product [see figure 16 for quantity of a product].

As for claim 30, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the summary area includes closed quantity of a product [see figure 16 for revenue class/closed of a product].

As for claim 31, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the summary area includes pipeline quantity of a product [...total revenue for all revenue/pipeline revenue; see figures 26-27].

As for claim 32, Amerasinghe et al disclose a computer-readable storage medium for controlling a computer system to present forecast information, by a method comprising:

a) providing forecast snapshots, each forecast snapshot having a forecast date, a forecast period, forecast interval and summary

[...*creates forecast data*; see par. 0118, figure 22 for *forecast date* 216; and *forecast snapshot* data with a forecast period in figure 27, par. 0142; *forecast period* 448 and *summary forecasts* 437; *formulate the structure of forecast including forecast interval*; (par. 0006; par. 0057 and figures 3)],

wherein the forecast interval indicates a frequency at which forecasts are to be generated and saved at forecasts

[...i.e. the forecast is created using the parameter such as interval, interval period which indicates the frequency at which forecasts are made within a period as show in figures 3-4, 18A; par. 0057(table 1), pars. 0058-0059); forecast data is stored; par. 0006; and figure 7];

b) for each forecast snapshot for the requested forecast period, retrieving forecasts for participants of the forecast [...forecast data stored in the database are then retrieved corresponding to the user; see par. 0006, lines 8-18; par. 0065, lines 1-11 and figures 6A-6B]; and

generating a display description with a summary area that includes summary information of the retrieved forecasts for participants of the forecast and a participants area that includes information of the retrieved forecasts of each participant [...summary view 460; participant area 464 and 462 that includes participant information; see par. 0139; 0140; 0141 and figures 24-25].

As for claim 33, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the areas includes a date for each forecast snapshot [see par. 0142, lines 7-10 and figure 25].

As for claim 34, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the participants area includes a row for each participant that, when selected, provides more detailed information about each participant [see par. 0141, lines 10-18 and figures 24-25].

As for claim 35, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the information of the participants area includes name of the participant [see figures 24-25].

As for claim 36, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein the summary area comprises a row of information for each forecast snapshot within the forecast

period and the participant area comprises a row of information for each participant within each forecast snapshot within the forecast period [see figures 24-25].

As for claim 37, Amerasinghe et al disclose wherein information of the summary area includes forecasted quantity of a product [see figure 16 for quantity of a product].

As for claim 38, Amerasinghe et al disclose a computer program product, comprising a computer-readable storage medium wherein said computer readable storage medium comprises a data structure comprising:

a) a summary area that comprises summary information of forecasts for participants of a forecast, the summary information being generated based on forecast snapshots having a forecast date, a forecast period, forecast interval and summary forecasts

[...creates forecast data; see par. 0118, figure 22 for forecast date 216; and forecast snapshot data with a forecast period in figure 27, par. 0142;; forecast period 448 and summary forecasts 437; formulate the structure of forecast including forecast interval; (par. 0006; par. 0057 and figures 3)],

wherein the forecast interval indicates a frequency at which forecasts are to be generated and saved at forecasts snapshot

[...i.e. the forecast is created using the parameter such as interval, interval period which indicates the frequency at which forecasts are made within a period as show in figures 3-4, 18A; par. 0057(table 1), pars. 0058-0059);forecast data is stored; par. 0006; and figure 7]; **Note:** This is a method claim, and active, positive method step is

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required. As for the phrase “to display forecast snapshot for a forecast period”, this is not a positively recited method step but, rather as intended use of the previous step/function.

b) a participants area that comprises information of forecasts of each participant that is generated based on the forecast snapshots [...participant area 464 and 462 that includes participant information; see par. 0139 and figures 24-25]; and

c) a user area that comprises information of the retrieved current opportunities of the user [see form 462 is also a user area that enable a user to view his or her forecast and others participant; see par. 0140; par. 0141 and figures 24-25].

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed September 29, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states that Amerasinghe does not disclose “the forecast snapshots feature and the forecast interval indicates a frequency at which forecasts are to be generated and saved as forecast snapshots”, and “display forecast snapshot information for a forecast period”. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Amerasinghe discloses the forecast snapshots as show in figures 19, 26-27, par. 0142. As for the phase "wherein the forecast interval indicates a frequency at which forecasts are to be generated and saved as forecast snapshots", this is fairly taught in Amerasinghe, in at

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least figures 3-4, 18A, 19, 26-27, and at least pars. 0057-0059; 0109, 0142 ...*i.e. the forecast is created using the parameter such as interval, interval period which indicates the frequency at which forecasts are made within a period* and figure 17 indicates how the forecast data is generated by week, month, Quarter, Year (par. 0107)].

Furthermore, as for the phrase “forecasts are to be generated and saved as forecast snapshots” is not a positively recited method step but, rather as intended use of the previous step/function. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (*i.e., this collection of saved forecast snapshots can later be used to analyze the accuracy of forecast predictions.....within the saved collection of forecast snapshots*”; “... provide for such access to historical details”; “a method of saving forecast snapshots or fore presenting information derived from the saved forecast snapshots) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ThuyVi Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on 571-272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Dennis Ruhl/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3689